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BULLETIN No. 106: December 2011



This is a monthly bulletin going out to around 10,000 clients, contacts, friends, friends of friends so forth, to keep them in touch with what's going on in the world of charities. Tip: if like me you have a low attention span or this came to you by mistake, scroll down to the ...And Finally.

Daryl Martin

hesitate before risking getting on the wrong side of the Revenue men. It can't be an collecting taxes when so much of the money they raise is wasted in such odd ways: , IT contracts (don't start ranting now, you've been told before). So what are they v? 2 areas:

claims are very slow, so don't be depending on them too much if you have cash flow . If you get your claim in and they find something wrong, or is incomplete and it rned. When you get the claim back in, it goes to the back of the queue, so make right first time. Someone said it's taking 3 months to get a claim paid, but I can't hat's true.

g penalties are being levied, even when payments are late by one day every month. t think it's been acceptable in the past and you might overlook that some payment (inc BACs) need 3 days to clear. A number of appeals are being made and often this is costly and time consuming, so don't risk it. [Contact Kay](#) if you need help on knows a thing or two about keeping on the right side of HMRC.

say that in all my dealings with HMRC they have always been helpful, and te. Sometimes, when I hear about the dreadful treatment other people have I wonder how much the Golden Rule applies.

IAL SERVICES COMPENSATION SCHEME

ty comes up with nuggets from time to time and I'm grateful to him for reminding here is a curious anomaly in the FSCS where charities are concerned. If your incorporated, deposits up to £85,000 are protected up to a turnover of £6.6m, £3.26m and over 50 employees. If you are not incorporated you are only covered e scheme if your assets are below £1.4m. Owning freehold property could easily tip that limit. Trustees are unlikely to be liable personally for any losses provided they care in making investment decisions and take appropriate advice. I have to say I charity in my sights right now where a trustee is potentially facing a significant loss of some thousands not because he didn't take care, but he allowed a fellow



INCORPORATIO

We help and advise a number of charities who become charitable comp We have developed Implementation Guide t people through the pro



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Charity Bookkeep

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to make a very unwise investment without advice being taken. (Note to self: just to the regulator to check how CIOs are covered when they finally make their decision)

BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR DONATIONS

Charities give to charity all year round, but this is a time of year when giving tends to be up. In my work recently I came across a charity, still receiving support despite the red inked accounts on the CC website being qualified and there being no accounts for 3 years. Red ink everywhere you look on the charity's CC webpage. Where you see red inked accounts, no accounts, and red ink, this is a sign to be very, very careful. This charity was being endorsed only a few months back by a charity media outlet who should know better. I'm in the process of setting up an organisation to help charities and their supporters with advice and protection from this sort of muddle.

CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION

Whenever I see a suggestion in these bulletins it's usually because it has been triggered by an event somewhere, often something I'm involved with. I read a while ago that it was estimated that up to a third of UK charities did not have proper child protection policies in place. Didn't believe it at the time, but I'm beginning to think it may not be far off the mark. Let's not get all jobsworth about this, but once a year someone should see that a robust policy is in place and working. It should be minuted that it's been

CHARITIES GETTING BUSINESS RATE RELIEF

A great benefit for thousands of charities across the UK. But there's always someone who will make a quick buck out of a good thing. The CC is looking at over 700 cases where charities have taken a tenancy of a business unit but may not be occupying the property. It's a smart way of a commercial landlord avoiding paying full business rates on a property he's unable to let or use, and he's more than happy to make a donation to the charity involved. Local authorities are rightly taking a dim view of this as it reduces their revenue. If your charity has signed an agreement on a property the charity isn't using, take care you could get hammered. As a trustee you may be in breach of charity law (refer back to the article above on trustee liability). [Contact me](#) and I'll help all I can.

BEST MONTHLY BOOKKEEPING SERVICE

If you're thinking of using this service, we are planning to revise our fees from 1st January. Signing up before December 31st will get 12 months at the current fee. [E-mail Viv](#) for more information.

TRUSTEE LA BODIES

A new project, a means to be able to provide advice to charities and trustees of charities, is being set up. Good website under construction, some high quality people indicating interest (not without asking some tough questions!). Even the bank is showing a degree of

recently covered include: Leadership Ramblings (bit pretentious), Professional or Amateur (pleased with that one), and my thoughts on what church will look like over the next 20 years.

DO CHARITIES TURN FOR ADVICE?

Happy to be your first port of call. Life will be especially complicated in 2012. One charity has reported that they could lose up to 10% of their member charities next year.

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Company Secretary Service

A number of Charities have already signed up to this service. [Contact us](#) for more information.



Gift Aid:

[Email Janice](#) if you need help with your gift aid claims or need envelopes for your donations.

ate this and 20,000 charities could go to the wall next year. Bit alarmist, but no complacency. I've said before there will be winners and losers. We are gearing up more help than ever before to the charities in our care.

ALLY...

ally made it through a tough year. Things look like getting a good deal harder next

ere are some quotes for tough times to help you on your way:

les are made on the first contact

les are made on the second contact

les are made on the third contact

de on the 4th contact

de on later contacts. Never Give Up. (See my (pretentious but helpful) blog on

p.)

an orange, you get orange juice. Squeeze a lemon, you get lemon juice.

u're under pressure the 'essence' of who you are is revealed. When times are tough
o see what's really there.

e... when life gives you lemons, make lemonade.

f the outcome all depends on God

l plan as if it all depends on you.

e one from Longfellow as we go into a new year of hope and challenge:

mournfully into the past,

not back again.

improve the present. It is thine.

to meet the shadowy future,

ear, and with a manly heart.

***WE WISH A GOOD CHRISTMAS TIME AND A HAPPY
AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS***



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